(b) if so, what is the number of such contractor's and its men in Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) About 184 pairs of trains on Indian Railways are running with pantry car services managed by private licensees who engage their staff on their own. The details of men employed by the private licensees are not maintained by the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of Passengers Amenities Committee

459. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the major recommendations of the last Passenger Amenities Committee;

(b) whether Railways have accepted any of the proposals made by the Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The important observations/suggestions made by the Passenger Amenities Committee relate to removal of encroachments from railway land and generation of revenue from surplus land, prevention of entry of unauthorised vendors in moving trains, spending of funds for passenger amenities on facilities like drinking water, seating arrangements, maintenance of waiting halls, toilets, lights, fans etc. and not on major construction works, monitoring the quality of meals etc. The suggestions/observations of the Committee are kept in view while formulating guidelines and implementation.

Light weight coaches

460. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have entered into a contract with the foreign company for the manufacture of light weight coaches for Rajdhani, Shatabdi and some selected superfast trains of the Indian Railways;